

What

Expand the availability and use of early child care.

Why Short Term

Providing sufficient, accessible, affordable, quality (meaning dependable, secure and developmentally appropriate) early child care (from birth to kindergarten) is necessary for job seeking and working parents to transcend and avoid poverty status.

Why Long Term

Children who experience quality (meaning nurturing cognitive, social and emotional development) child care succeed in primary and secondary school preparing them for employment with earnings above poverty level.

How

Connect parents in need with existing child care resources by offering convenient access to current information on the location, availability and cost of child care through improvements to information sources (State supported Child Care Resource and Referral staff and Dial 211 information services).

How

Recruit and support community volunteers who will be informed and familiar with child care resources and current vacancies in a designated sector of the community; volunteers would act as partners with parents in securing child care; volunteers would also be available to employers in search of resources for employees; in addition to being helpers, volunteers would document experience in matching resources and needs.

How

Request Metro Social Services to work with the planning division of Metro Schools to identify the current and future supply and demand for child care (birth to kindergarten) and school (kindergarten through secondary school). Encourage the expansion and development of child care by providing information on consumer demand, consumer ability to pay and trends.

How

Forge small employer consortiums with common interest in supporting or providing child care resources for employees; through the development offices of Metro organize

employers by type (food services, housekeepers, construction) or location to contribute to child care providers to make services available to current and prospective employees (the corporate child care model for small employers and franchise operators).